have continued to express strong opposition to any supply of military equipment to Pakistan including supply of nuclear, weapons delivery capability.

Agreement signed between India and South Africa

1118. *iHRl* SURESH KALMADI: Will (JIB Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) wtefcher it is a fact that India and South have signed an agreemen envisaging cooperation in political trade, economic **an<j** cultural fields a . well as in science and technology; and

(b) [f >< what are the details there of?

MSTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SKRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) and (! reement to set up a Ministerial level Inter-Governmental loint Commission between India and Sou til Africa was initiated during the visit of H.E. Mr. Aziz Pahad. Deputy Foreign Minister of the Republic of South Africa to India from November 24 to 28, 1994. Under the agreement, which will be formally signed during the forthcoming visit to India of the President of South Africa which is expected to be in lanuary 1995, cooperation between the two countries is envisaged in political, trade, economic, cultural, scientific and technical cooperation fie[1]

Meeting «if the American Federation of Indian Muslims

UI9. SHR1 K. R. MALKANI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be please J io stare:

la) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item published in the 'India West' of October 28, 1994 about the meeting of the American Federation of Muslims from India held in Los Angeles on October 21. 1994.

(b) whether it is a fact that false and defamatory speeches were made there against the people and Government of India;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Charged' Affaires of the Indian Embassy in Washington, attended and addressed this conference; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY' OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS fSHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED) ta) Ves, Sir.

(b) According to Government's infor mation, .{bough there was some criticism of the treatment of minority communi- ties in some of the speeches at the inaugural session of the convention, appreciation was also expressed of certain measures adopted to address their con-

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Charged' Affairs was invited by the organisers to attend the inaugural session of the conference as a Special Guest. He spoke briefly on the occa sion, .referring to India's religious, linguistic and cultural diversity and emphasising the crucial importance of pluralism and secularism in India.

India's claim for membership in the UN security council

1120. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that Govern ment of India asked for inclusion of India in Security Council of UNO:

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that some other countries also claimed for the membership of the UNO Security Council; i

fdl if so. the details thereof; and

(c) in this situation what action Go- vernment of India propose to take so that India will be included as a penna- I nent member of UNO Security Council?